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Keswick Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

Antony Hargreaves, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR
1970

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Public Health Inspector



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STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

A. HARGREAVES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

R. LUSHER.

Assistant Public Health Inspector :

S. A. HUGHES.

Clerk and Assistant :

R. BIRKETT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my 5th Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for Keswick Urban District. My appointment is held jointly with the Cockermouth Urban and Rural Districts, the Maryport Urban District, and Workington Borough — thus covering the whole of the central and western part of the county, for whose Council I also act as Western Area Medical Officer.

The report is along the lines indicated in the Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/71 and there are no outstanding variations in the statistics from previous years.

Keswick's population would appear to be stabilising at around the 4,500 mark — the aging trend continues, as indicated by the persisting low birth rate (13.1) ; c.f. national average 16.0 ; and high death rate (18.0) ; c.f. national average 11.7. In consequence the waiting list for housing for the aged continues to grow — it has now reached the 100 mark, although this problem is mitigated somewhat by the relative prosperity and good health of many of our aged citizens. Nevertheless, need is still with us, and I am very pleased that the scheme at Limepots is proceeding.

The second part of this report has been prepared by Mr. Lusher, and I would like to record my appreciation of the help that I receive from him at all times.

I would like also to express my thanks for the help given to me by the Clerk, and the friendliness and consideration I have received from members of the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ANTONY HARGREAVES,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres) : 1,272.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population : 4,490 ; mid-1969—4,500 ; mid-1968—4,510 ; mid-1967—4,350 ; mid-1966—4,340 ; mid-1965—4,316 ; mid-1964—4,410 ; mid-1963—4,600.

Number of inhabited houses : 1,800.

Rateable Value : £215,253.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £838.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The Tables of Vital Statistics are set out below, showing birth rates, death rates and rates for maternal and infantile mortality.

Crude birth and death rates are corrected by means of an Area Comparability Factor supplied each year by the Registrar General. They allow for varying age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and enable comparisons to be made with figures for other areas.

This year the factor for births is 1.15 and for deaths 0.80.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

Number : 59.

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate Births	...	31	27	58
Illegitimate Births	...	0	1	1
		—	—	—
Total	...	31	28	59
		—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	13.1
Adjusted rate	...	...	...	15.1
Illegitimate Live Births				
(per cent. of total live births)	...	...	...	2%

Still Births.

Number : 3.

Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	...	...	48
Total live and still-births	...	...	62
Infant deaths (deaths under one year)	...	...	0

Infant Mortality Rates :

Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	...	...	0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	0
Neo-natal Mortality Rates (Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	0
Early Neo-natal Mortality (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	0
Peri-natal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 live and still-births)	...	...	48

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) :

There were no maternal deaths in 1970.

DEATHS.

Deaths (all ages)	...	Males 37	Females 46	Total 83
Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	18.5
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	14.8

Total Death from certain causes :

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0
Other communicable diseases	...	...	...	...	0
Cancer (all forms)	...	...	...	...	12
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1

The cancer death rate per 1,000 population was 5.5 (1969—3.8). Approximately one death in seven was due to cancer. Senile deaths (deaths occurring over age 65) were 64—77% of all deaths (74% in 1969).

VITAL STATISTICS

Population of the Urban District is 4,490.

LIVE BIRTHS—

LIVE BIRTHS—		Rate per 1,000 pop.					
		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total	uncor- rected	cor- rected
1966	Legitimate	34	27	61	71	16.2	18.3
	Illegitimate	5	5	10			
1967	Legitimate	31	30	61	68	15.6	17.9
	Illegitimate	5	2	7			
1968	Legitimate	22	24	46	55	12.2	13.5
	Illegitimate	4	5	9			
1969	Legitimate	24	25	49	54	12.0	13.8
	Illegitimate	2	3	5			
1970	Legitimate	31	27	58	59	13.1	15.1
	Illegitimate	0	1	1			

STILL BIRTHS—

						Total (live & still births)
		Males	Females	Total	Total	
1966	Legitimate	1	0	1		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	1	13.9
1967	Legitimate	0	0	0		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	0.0
1968	Legitimate	0	0	0		
	Illegitimate	0	1	1	1	18
1969	Legitimate	0	0	0		
	Illegitimate	1	0	1	1	18
1970	Legitimate	2	1	3		
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	3	48

DEATHS—

Year	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1,000 pop. uncorrected	Rate per 1,000 pop. corrected
1966	44	47	91	21.0	17.2
1967	29	44	73	16.8	12.4
1968	38	36	74	16.4	14.8
1969	31	50	81	18.0	14.4
1970	37	46	83	18.5	14.8

MATERNAL MORTALITY :—

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (live & still) births
1966	0	—
1967	0	—
1968	0	—
1969	0	—
1970	0	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES :—

	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	All Infants per 1,000 live births	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live Legitimate Births	Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live Illegitimate Births
1966	4	56.3	56.3	—
1967	2	29.4	16.4	14.20
1968	0	—	—	—
1969	4	74	41	400
1970	0	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE :—

	Pulmonary T.B. Deaths	Other T.B. Deaths	Total T.B. Deaths	Pulmonary T.B. Death Rate per 1,000 pop.	Total T.B. Death Rate per 1,000 pop.
1966	0	0	0	—	—
1967	0	0	0	—	—
1968	0	0	0	—	—
1969	0	0	0	—	—
1970	0	0	0	—	—

TABLE OF COMPARABILITY RATES (uncorrected) :—

BIRTH RATE

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
England and Wales	17.7	17.2	16.0	16.3	16.0
County of Cumberland	16.3	16.3	15.1	15.2	14.6
Urban Districts of Cumberland	16.8	17.0	15.8	15.2	15.2
Keswick Urban	16.4	15.6	12.2	12.0	13.1

DEATH RATE

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
England and Wales	11.7	11.2	11.0	11.9	11.7
County of Cumberland	12.3	11.2	12.4	12.3	12.2
Urban Districts of Cumberland	12.2	11.4	12.7	12.7	12.5
Keswick Urban	21.0	16.8	16.4	18.0	18.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
England and Wales	19.0	18.3	18.0	18.0	18.0
County of Cumberland	21.0	16.9	19.4	18.8	18.2
Urban Districts of Cumberland	21.7	16.3	16.7	14.6	14.6
Keswick Urban	56.3	29.4	0.0	74.1	0.0

CAUSE OF DEATHS, 1970

Causes of Death					Males	Females
All Causes					37	46
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	...	...	...	0	0
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0
6.	Meningo-coccal Infections	...	...	...	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0
8.	Measles	...	...	...	0	0
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	...	...	...	0	0
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	1	0
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	4	0
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	0	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	0	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	2	2
15.	Diabetes	...	...	...	0	0
16.	Diseases of nervous system	...	...	...	2	0
17.	Cerebrovascular diseases	...	...	...	4	21
18.	Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	...	10	6
19.	Hypertensive disease	...	...	...	0	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	3	7
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	2	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	1
24.	Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	0	0
25.	Asthma	...	...	...	1	0
26.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	...	4	0
27.	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	2	0
28.	Other diseases of digestive system	...	...	...	1	0
29.	Other diseases genitourinary system	...	...	...	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	0	0
32.	Other causes of perinatal mortality	...	...	...	0	0
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	0
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	0	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	0	0
36.	All other external causes	...	...	...	0	1

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Site of Cancer.				Males	Females	Totals
Oesophagus	...	...		0	1	1
Stomach	...	...	...	1	0	1
Intestine	...	...	...	1	0	1
Lung, Bronchus	...	...		4	0	4
Breast	...	...	...		2	2
Uterus	...	...	...		1	1
Prostate	...	...	...	1		1
Leukaemia	...	...	...	0	0	0
Other	...	...	...	0	1	1
				—	—	—
				7	5	12
				—	—	—

INFANT DEATHS

Cause of death	Age in weeks				Age in months						Total
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	
Prematurity											0
Congenital defect											0
Infection											0
Total											0

CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

					Males	Females	Totals
Pulmonary	...	...	...		16	6	22
Non Pulmonary	...	...	...		2	5	7
					—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	...	18	11	29
					—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

(a) STAFF

The appointment of Dr. A. Hargreaves as Medical Officer of Health for the area commenced on the 1st September, 1966.

(b) LABORATORY SERVICES

All microbiological work is carried out in the Carlisle Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service. I am most grateful to Dr. D. G. Davies, the Director of the Laboratory, for his help during the year.

(c) LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES SERVICES

Medical services provided under Part III of the National Health Services Act, are the responsibility of the Cumberland County Council. Information about these services, including the provision of a scheme for the screening of women for prevention of cancer of the neck of the womb, and assistance and advice in connection with Family Planning, may be obtained from the Area Health Office, Fieldside, Elizabeth Street, Workington.

Home Nursing and Maternity Services are now an integral part of the Family Doctor Service, together with the Health Visiting Services and immunisation of children, and enquiries should accordingly be addressed to the Family Practitioner.

The local clinic is at Bank Street, Keswick. The times, places and services are as follows :—

Child Health	. . .	Thursday 2 p.m.
School Clinic	. . .	By appointment
Dental Clinic	. . .	By appointment
Speech Therapy	. . .	By appointment

The services include specialist advice on the assessment and correction of vision and hearing defects.

(d) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS

No enforcement action was taken during the year to secure proper care and attention for the elderly and chronic sick.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, COMMUNICABLE AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No case of Infectious Disease was notified in 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The major development in the field of vaccination and immunisation during the year was the completion for the whole of the county of the administration connected with the automatic call up for this purpose of all children born on or after 1st January 1969.

This is now done by a computer programmed to make appointments in accordance with the following schedule as recommended by the standing medical advisory committee of the Central Health Services and the Joint Advisory Committee on vaccination and immunisation.

6 months	diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis & poliomyelitis
8 months	diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis & poliomyelitis
14 months	diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis & poliomyelitis
15 months	measles
4 years 6 months	diphtheria/tetanus & poliomyelitis

Using the birth register as its basic information the computer produces appointment cards for all children due for vaccination and immunisation for whom parental consent has been obtained. These cards are then posted on each occasion to the parents inviting them to take their child on a specific day and at a specific time to their own family doctor's surgery. Parallel to this, lists of those given appointments are sent to the practice concerned. Provision is made in the programming for failure to keep appointments, for whatever reason.

For some time to come vaccination and immunisation sessions for diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis will continue to be carried out during the school life of many children; together with routine anti-tuberculosis (B.C.G.) vaccination of those entering secondary school (or shortly thereafter) and german measles (rubella) vaccination of adolescent girls.

As a result of the computer programming of vaccination and immunisations it is now no longer possible to give you a statistical breakdown for the district area (family doctor's practices are not so arranged). However, in Cumberland as a whole, approximately 80% of children are eventually protected (67% in the first 18 months of life) with respect to diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (pertussis); 85% of children born in 1969 are protected against measles, together

with a high percentage of older children ; 85% of children are protected with respect to poliomyelitis ; 85% of schoolchildren receive B.C.G. vaccination to protect them against tuberculosis ; and a much smaller number of infants are still receiving smallpox vaccination.

These figures should not give rise to complacency — it takes a great deal of effort, particularly on the part of our health visitors and nurses, to keep them as high as this — and even so they are at the critical level when it comes to keeping these diseases at bay in the general community. We have found that great vigilance and continuing effort is required especially with regard to measles vaccination, and I cannot overemphasise the importance of B.C.G. vaccination of adolescent children — despite the occasional sore arm — as we still get cases of pulmonary tuberculosis cropping up in young unvaccinated adults especially young women).

During the latter part of 1970 a recommended vaccine against rubella (german measles) began to become available, but a routine vaccination scheme—limited to girls only, as they are the mothers of the future it is the unborn child who is actually at risk from infection by this virus—will not commence until early 1971 and will initially be restricted to girls in their thirteenth year.

KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my 20th Annual Report on Public Health work carried out in my Department during the year ended 31st December, 1970.

I would like to record my appreciation of the co-operation which I have received from my colleagues on the staff of the Council and to Members of the Council I would offer my thanks for their consideration and support.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,
RALPH LUSHER,
Public Health Inspector & Surveyor to the Council.

STAFF

Mr. T. Thwaite who has been Assistant Surveyor and Public Health Inspector since November 1964, left in March to become Building Inspector with the Cockermouth Rural District Council.

Mr. S. A. Hughes was appointed in April and took up his duties on the 1st May 1970.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

The County Engineer's Report on investigations into a scheme to relieve certain sewers which are surcharged with storm water during periods of heavy rain was considered by the Council in September 1970.

After careful consideration, the Council decided to ask Messrs. Sandford Fawcett, Wilton & Bell, Consulting Engineers, to prepare an outline scheme and estimate for formal approval by the Council.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE

The Council have two vehicles which are employed full-time on refuse collection. A Sheldove & Drewry 20 cubic yard Refuse Collector is used for the collections from boarding houses and private houses and a Karrier Bantam Dual Tip 12 cubic yard vehicle is employed on the collection of refuse from hotels, restaurants and shops.

In addition to these two vehicles a Karrier lorry is used on general work in the district.

The Council continued with the use of paper refuse sacks on the Latrigg Close Estate and this system is working well.

The experiment with the use of bin liners at Windebrowe Avenue has been very successful and the scheme has now been extended to a further 200 houses. In addition a number of hotels are purchasing bin liners from the Council and this is making the handling of hotel refuse much easier.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and a full-time attendant is in charge of the refuse tip.

The Bristol Taurus bulldozer contributes greatly to the more efficient disposal of the refuse and enables the soil covering to be more adequately maintained.

Very few complaints are received and this service is generally satisfactory.

The Council have engaged the Management Services Section of the Cumberland County Council to investigate the possibility of the introduction of a Work Study Scheme covering all the Council's services. They commenced a study of the refuse collection service in June and it is hoped to introduce a trial bonus incentive scheme early in 1971.

STREET CLEANING

During the summer season considerable difficulty was experienced in keeping down the large amount of litter in the district. It has been found that the Wayne Sweeper purchased some three years ago is not capable of dealing with such a large volume of litter and the Council decided at the end of the year to purchase a Ford/Lacre TG Compact twin engined suction road sweeper at a cost of £5,285. In addition to sweeping the streets, this machine can be used for watering them and emptying gulleys. It is expected that the machine will be delivered before the commencement of the 1971 season.

FACTORIES ACT

A total of 46 factories are entered in the Factories Register, 4 inspections were made of these premises during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Many inspections were carried out during the year and no problems were encountered.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employees undertake treatment as recommended. Treatments were carried out at 23 private houses.

Messrs. Rentokil Laboratories Ltd., carried out one treatment of the sewers against rats in the autumn of 1970 and poison was placed in 100 manholes.

The Council have now decided to enter into a Contract with Messrs. Rentokil for a twice yearly treatment of the sewers.

DERWENTWATER CARAVAN SITE

The Derwentwater Caravan Site continued to operate most successfully.

At the beginning of the year Messrs. Kenkast Buildings Ltd., erected a prefabricated bungalow on the site for the Warden. In February the

Council appointed Mr. B. H. Fairclough as full-time Warden and he is responsible for dealing with all bookings and for cleaning the four toilet blocks on the site.

No extensions were carried out during the year. At the end of the 1970 season 79 caravan owners were approached to see if they were interested in a scheme for the installation of electricity to their caravans at a cost of £50 each. This included for the laying of service cables and the provision of a power point housed in a box outside the caravan. This would provide for up to 3 k.w. of power for each van. The caravan owner would be responsible for providing the wiring inside the caravan.

Of the 79 owners approached only 19 were in favour of the scheme and the Council have decided that the scheme should not be proceeded with at present. They have, however, decided to install electricity services for the 1972 season.

CAMPING SITE

As I reported last year the Camping Site is now operated by the Camping Club of Great Britain & Ireland Ltd. They have had a very successful season and no complaints have been received.

No extensions are to be carried out for the 1971 season.

HOUSING

10 private houses were built during the year.

DERWENT CLOSE

These 20 aged persons flatlets continued to serve a very useful purpose.

MILLFIELD GARDENS

As I reported last year only 31 of the 55 three-bedroom houses were completed. The remaining 24 houses were all occupied by the end of March 1970.

As part of this housing scheme a children's play area is to be provided with various items of play equipment and the floodlighting of the area.

Tenders were invited and a Contract was entered into with Messrs. Greenholme Construction Co. Ltd., in the sum of £8,474. Work on this play area is now in progress.

CONVERSION OF STORE TO FLAT

At the beginning of 1970 a scheme was prepared for the conversion of a disused store at Windebrowe Avenue into a one person flat. Tenders were invited and a Contract was entered into with Mr. J. Moffat. The total cost of this work was £2,500 and an Improvement Grant was obtained from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government towards the cost of this work. The flat was completed and occupied in November, 1970.

LIMEPOTS ROAD HOUSING

A scheme for the erection of 26 flats on land at Limepots Road has been prepared by Mr. R. Clementson, A.R.I.B.A., and tenders for the scheme were received in October 1970.

Five tenders were received and the lowest, £113,000 was substantially above the Government's 'Yardstick'. Discussions took place between the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, Messrs. Thomas Armstrong Ltd. and the Council to see if any way could be found of reducing the cost of the flats but without success.

The Ministry has suggested that the size of the flats might be increased from two person to three person in order to obtain a bigger allowance under the 'Yardstick'.

Mr. R. Clementson is now preparing new plans and the Council have engaged Mr. W. Johnston, Quantity Surveyor, to prepare a Specification and Bill of Quantities.

AMBLESIDE ROAD HOUSING

In October the Council asked for a Report to be made on possible sites for the erection of a further 30 aged persons flats. A number of sites were examined and the most suitable site is on land at the rear of Ambleside Road.

The Council have now authorised the Officials to negotiate with the owners of the land and an outline planning application has been submitted to the Lake District Planning Board.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

9 applications were received for Improvement Grants and grants were made in all cases. All the applications were in respect of owner occupied premises.

This is a decrease of one on last year's figure.

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair and no action was taken by the Council under this Act.

MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE

Work was continued during the year on the inspection of all the hotels, restaurants and boarding houses in the district in connection with the provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire as required by Section 60 of the Public Health Act, 1936. This work is being carried out jointly with the Fire Prevention Officer of the County Fire Service.

All plans submitted to the Council under the Building Regulations are inspected by the Fire Prevention Officer. If any work is necessary in connection with the means of escape, the applicant is asked to incorporate it in the alterations. This system is working well.

I would like to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation which I receive from Mr. B. Powell, the Fire Prevention Officer of the County Fire Service, in carrying out this work.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MILK

MILK AND DAIRIES

45 milk samples were submitted to the analyst.

Under a local arrangement made in this County, the inspection work is still being carried out by the local Public Health Inspectors and 45 such inspections were made during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no slaughter houses in the Urban District, all meat is transported from abbatoirs outside the district.

The following is a brief summary of food stuffs for which certificates of unsoundness were issued by the Public Health Inspector.

660 tins of various foods. These food stuffs were removed by the refuse collectors and buried at the refuse tip.

BAKEHOUSES. There are five in existence. As usual all these premises were periodically inspected.

ICE CREAM.	Registered premises for manufacture or sale	...	31
	Registered premises for sale only	... ..	29

FOOD (Preparation and Manufacture) Premises.			
	Registered premises for the preparation and manufacture of foods	... ..	11

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The work of inspection of food premises continued during the year.

